



EL-news



IRTS supporting Amateur Radio

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January 2016

80m New Year's Day Contest

The 80m Counties Contest takes place on Friday New Year's Day from 14:00 to 17:00 UTC. The thirty-two EI and GI counties are multipliers in this contest, so the "rarer" counties will be very much in demand. There are fixed and portable sections, with SSB-only and mixed mode SSB/CW options and also a section for SWLs. See www.irts.ie/contests for the rules, and note in particular the rule about permitted frequencies.



This year for the first time, to encourage more CW operation in the mixed mode sections, there is a bonus of 1,000 points for any entry that includes at least ten valid CW QSOs with EI or GI stations; note also the suggested CW "centre of activity" of 3522 kHz.

IARU Activities

The Radio Equipment Directive (RED) will replace the R&TTE Directive in June 2016. The RED sets out the requirements for radio equipment placed on the EU market. Radio equipment includes electrical or electronic products which intentionally emits and/or receives radio waves for the purpose of radio communication.

Generally radio equipment used by radio amateurs falls outside the scope of the Directive. This includes radio kits for assembly and use by radio amateurs, radio equipment modified by and for the use of radio amateurs, and equipment constructed by individual radio amateurs for experimental and scientific purposes related to amateur radio.

Currently, guides to the RED and the Electro Magnetic Compatibility Directive (EMCD) are being prepared. Séamus McCague EI8BP, in his role as Vice Chairman of PRC, has been attending meetings of the Guide Drafting Working Groups and their parent working parties (EMC WP and TCAM) to contribute to the drafting of the Guides on matters relevant to amateur radio. The work is ongoing and the IARU contribution is to ensure that we can continue to enjoy amateur radio services to the maximum.

Additionally IARU is monitoring the transcription of the Directives into national law and has detected a dilution of amateur radio status in draft legislation in some Member States.

Everything DX

A group of EI DXers are meeting on Saturday 2nd January 2016 in the Maldron Hotel, Portlaoise at 12:00 noon with the intention of forming an EI DX Group. The group's objectives will cover everything DX-related, from chasing DXCC right through to DXpeditions. Anyone attending will be made welcome. Expressions of interest to Dave EI9FBB or Pat EI9HX.

First UKEI DX SSB Contest

This was held on 5/6 December 2015 - full results [here](#). Among the EI entrants, EI7KD was second in the high-power 12-hour assisted section, and EI7CC third in low-power 12-hour. In the DX section, the winner was David EI4KL, operating from the station of Dom 3Z9DX in Poland.



IRTS AGM 2016

8/9 April 2016

Radisson Blu Hotel, Limerick



Dinner tickets & Rally information contact EI7ALB 087 285 8884

www.irts.ie/agm

Getting Started

Essex Ham have put together some advice for newcomers to amateur radio on how to get the most from their handheld radio. You can read the new Essex Ham Handheld Guide at essexham.co.uk/handheld

Essex Ham also provide a series of Getting Started Guides which can be downloaded from essexham.co.uk/getstarted

North Korea Activated

Dom Gryzb 3Z9DX made the first QSOs in over 10 years from North Korea, using the call P5/3Z9DX on 20/21 December 2015. His 785 QSOs were a demonstration in preparation for the real activity planned for early 2016. Conditions were far from ideal with 100w to an antenna mounted on a metal fence post 2m above ground and surrounded by government high-rise buildings in Pyongyang, giving noise levels of S9+10 on 15m, and S9+30 on 20m.

As a result very few QSOs were made with EU. One of them was with David EI4KL on 15m. Coincidentally, EI4KL won the DX section of the UKEICC DX SSB contest, operating from Dom's remote-enabled station [3Z9DX](#) in Poland in December 2015. EI4KL and Dom share an interest in [GXP Antennas](#), manufactured in Poland.

Another EU station to make it into Dom's log (on two bands) was SP5MXZ who, coincidentally, operated QRP in CQWW CW from the 3Z9DX station in both 2014 and [2105](#).

Do You Need a Spudger?

What's a spudger? Well, if you ever wanted to open your laptop or tablet or iPhone, chances are you needed one. They are tools for doing just that, without damaging or marking the casing. Spudgers are made of plastic or aluminium; they come in many shapes and sizes. They are inexpensive and readily available from amazon.co.uk

Sometimes, even spudgers are not enough. Apple, in particular, doesn't like anyone else messing with their products and they go a long way to stop you fixing them. At the very least, you'll need a [pentalobe screwdriver](#). Here's much [more](#) on that story. Fix anything with ifixit.com - tools, repair guides and spare parts.

Members Advertisements

For Sale

Yaesu FL-2100Z linear amplifier, non WARC bands. €375. **Ameritron AL-811** linear amplifier with ARB-702 interface buffer €450. Both in good condition. Can email photos if interested. Malcolm EI8FH 087 838 5919 ei8fh@eircom.net

Icom IC-7400 HF/VHF Transceiver, as new. €750 ono. Liam EI8BLB 087 260 3023.

Wanted

National HRO Senior, 5TAIA, MX, cosmetic condition more important than working condition.

Collins ART-13 TX, working or not. Jim EI2BB, 087 261 2428 or 057 864 8589.

Contests - January 2016

[WA7BNM Contest Calendar](#) : [RSGB HF Contests](#) : [UKEICC Contests](#) : [IRTS Contests](#)

Fri 01 1400z, 3 hours – [IRTS 80m Counties](#) : **SSB/CW** : Exchange Serial & County Code
Wed 06 2000z, 60 mins – [UKEICC 80m](#) : **SSB** : exchange Locators, e.g. IO63 : work everyone
Sun 10 0900z, 2 hours – [DARC 10m](#) : **SSB/CW** : work everyone, Serials (+ DOK from DL)
Sun 10 1400z, 4 hours – [RSGB AFS](#) : **CW** : 80/40m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Sat 16 1200z, 24 hours – [Hungarian DX](#) : **SSB/CW** : work everyone, Serials (County Code HA)
Sat 16 1400z, 4 hours – [RSGB AFS](#) : **SSB** : 80/40m, work UK only, exchange Serials
Sat 23 1200z, 24 hours – [UKEICC DX](#) : **CW** : Serials (+ District Code UK & EI) : work everyone
Wed 27 2000z, 60 mins – [UKEICC 80m](#) : **CW** : exchange Locators, e.g. IO63 : work everyone
Sat 30 0600z, 36 hours – [REF Contest](#) : **CW** : 80-10m, work France & French territories - send Serial
Sat 30 1300z, 24 hours – [UBA DX](#) : **SSB** : 80-10m, work everyone, Serials (+ district code from ON)
Every Wednesday – [CWops Mini Contests](#) : **CW** : three separate 60-minute contests

Compiled by Paul [EI5DI](#)